DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 105 497 CS 202 026

TITLE	Short Story. Language Arts Mini-Course.
INSTITUTION	Lampeter-Strasburg School District, Pa.
PUB DATE	73
NOTE	8p.; See related documents CS202024-35; Product of Lampeter-Strasburg High School
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS	Class Activities; *Course Descriptions; Course Objectives; *Curriculum Guides; Instructional Materials; *Language Arts; Literature; Secondary Education; *Short Courses; *Short Stories
IDENTIFIERS	Minicourses

ABSTRACT

This language arts minicourse guide for Lampeter-Strasburg (Pennsylvania) High School contains a topical outline of a short story course. The guide includes a list of five course objectives; an outline of the origins, characteristics, themes, symbols, and content common to the short story genre; a description of the course content used in studying the short story; a brief list of class activities; and suggestions for instructional materials, including books, filmstrips, and films. (RB)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

ED105497

Language Arts Mini-Course

SHORT STORY

Lampeter-Strasburg High School
Lampeter, Pennsylvania

1973

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Lampeter-Strasburg High School
TO ERIC AND ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION. FURTHER REPRODUCTION OUTSIDE THE ERIC SYSTEM REQUIRES PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNER.

CS 202 026

SHORT STORY

OBJECTIVES:

1. To recognize the literal and external before examining symbolic connotations.

2. To discover how development of setting, character, plot, irony, and theme are handled by the author.

3. To recognize the individual stylistic characteristics of several authors.

4. To recognize the structural differences separating the short story from other genre.

5. To, through individual and group study, gain some enjoyment from literature

OUTLINE:

A. Origins of the short story

   1. Ancient forms
   2. Early authors
   3. Early works

B. Characteristics of the short story

   1. Poe's definition
   2. Modern interpretations
   3. Structures of the short story

C. Theme in the short story

   1. Significance of title
   2. Significance of character qualities
   3. Significance of the forces working on the character
   4. Significance of setting

D. Characterization in the short story

   1. Types of characters
   2. Clues to characterization

E. Plot in the short story

   1. Qualities of the beginning
   2. Qualities of the middle
   3. Qualities of the end

F. Symbolism in the short story

1. Significance of setting descriptions
2. Significance of names, appearances, and the objects the characters observe
3. Significance of repeated actions

G. Irony in the short story

1. Details that infer
2. Reviewing the story

H. American authors and works

I. International authors and works

J. Modern authors and works

K. Activities

CONTENT:

A. Origins of the short story

1. Ancient forms

a. Mythology
b. Fairy tales
c. Folk tales

2. Early authors

a. Washington Irving - The Sketch Book
b. Nathaniel Hawthorne - Twice Told Tales
c. Edgar Allan Poe - defined the short story and demonstrated his theories

B. Characteristics of the short story

1. Poe's definition from a review of Twice Told Tales

a. Should be short enough to read at one sitting
b. Every word and event must be directly aimed at a single effect
c. Compared the short story to the lyric poem

2. Modern interpretations of the short story

a. Definition is becoming increasingly vague
b. Character development is not deep
c. Concentrates on a single climax; a single emotion
d. Length not as important; length varies

3. Varied structures of the short story

   a. Exposition, conflict, rising and falling action, climax, revelation, and denoument may be found in varied orders and with varied emphasis.
   b. Basic pattern of narrative organization: exposition, conflict, rising and falling action, climax, revelation, and denoument.
   c. Special patterns:

      1. Stockton's "The Lady or the Tiger" - ends at moment of climax
      2. Brown's "The Puzzle-Knot" - conflict's presented before the exposition

C. Theme in the short story

   1. Significance of the title
   2. Significance of character qualities

      a. Repeated actions by characters
      b. Ideas of the characters
      c. Comments by the author on the characters

   3. Significance of the forces working on the characters

      a. Forces that act against the characters
      b. Forces allied with the character
      c. Difference in the character from beginning to end of story as a result of these forces

   4. Significance of setting

      a. Repeated descriptive details
      b. Location of story geographically

D. Characterization in the short story

   1. Types of characters

      a. Simple character - "flat"

         1. See only one, literal dimension
         2. Character presents no surprises

      b. Complex characters - "round"

         1. See character from all angles
         2. Character may not turn out to be what first anticipated by reader

   2. Clues to characterization

      a. Title of the story may name the major character and/or his importance
      b. Introductory passages concerning the appearance of the character may be revealing

c. Repeated actions and different actions which contribute to a single impression of the character are revealing.
d. Ideas of the character; his thoughts are significant
e. Reactions of other characters to the major character are important.

E. Plot in the short story

1. Qualities of the beginning

a. Character is in a reasonably stable condition (static)
b. Introduction of a problem, obstacle, or conflict (POC) or a combination of the three.
c. This necessitates action by the character
d. Includes exposition and conflict

2. Qualities of the middle

a. Character makes choices
b. Story reaches a climax - he chooses the last possible choice available to him
c. Climax shows success or failure of his efforts to attain what he wants as he copes with POC
d. Includes rising and falling action and climax

3. Qualities of the end

a. Character returns to static condition as a result of his interaction with forces that caused POC.
b. Character is usually changed at the end
c. Includes revelation and denoument

F. Symbolism in the short story

1. Significance of description of setting

a. Details describe a time, place, and atmosphere that may be symbolic in themselves.
b. Details may also signify conditions associated with such a setting.

2. Significance of names, appearances, and the objects they observe:

a. Names may infer a characteristic of a person
b. Appearance may infer something related. Example: The paint on the boys in Lord of the Flies is the same color as the standard colors of the Nazi movement.
c. Certain objects have become standard symbols (especially in individual authors). Example: King's scepter represents authority.

3. Significance of repeated actions

a. Repeated actions may indicate a traditional ritual. Example: Jackson's "The Lottery"
b. The actions themselves may be symbolic. Example: In Communion bread and wine represent the body and blood of Christ.

G. Irony in the short story

1. Details in a story will lead the reader to draw certain inferences about the nature of characters and conditions which later actions will prove to be untrue.

   a. Some details may lead the reader to suspect irony later in the story.
   b. Look for a definite point which will lead to a reversal of initial impressions.

2. Reviewing the story after completing it will reveal full extent of irony.

H. American authors and works

1. Washington Irving - "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"
2. Edgar Allan Poe - "The Fall of the House of Usher"
3. Nathaniel Hawthorne - "Dr. Heidigger's Experiment"
4. Herman Melville - "Bartleby the Scrivener"
5. Mark Twain - "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg"
6. Stephen Crane - "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky"
7. Henry James - "The Tree of Knowledge"
8. Sherwood Anderson - "Sophistication"

I. International authors and works

1. Guy deMaupassant - "A Piece of String"
2. Anton Chekov - "Gooseberries"
3. D. H. Lawrence - "The Rocking-Horse Winner"
4. Katherine Mansfield - "Bliss"
5. Franz Kafka - "The Metamorphisis"
6. Jean - Paul Sarte - "The Wall"

J. Modern authors and works

1. William Faulkner - "That Evening Sun"
2. John Cheever - "Goodbye, My Brother"
3. Saul Bellow - "Looking for Mr. Green"
4. Ernest Hemingway - "My Old Man"

5. Shirley Jackson - "The Lottery"
6. Frank Stockton - "The Lady or the Tiger"
7. James Baldwin - "Sonny's Blues"
8. Ralph Ellison - "Did You Ever Dream Lucky?"
9. Bernard Malemud - "The German Refugee"
10. John Updike - "The Christian Roommates"

ACTIVITIES:

1. Filmstrip - "The Short Story"
2. Writing assignments
   a. Write an ending to "The Lady or the Tiger"
   b. Write a short story (individually or in groups)
3. Individual reports on short story
4. Encyclopedia Britannica Film Series
   a. Frank Stockton's "The Lady or the Tiger"
   b. Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Dr. Heidigger's Experiment"
   c. Ernest Hemingway's "My Old Man"
   d. Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery"
   e. Herman Melville's "Bartleby the Scrivener"

MATERIALS:

BOOKS:

Perfection Form Company Logan, Iowa 51546

"The Lady or the Tiger"
"The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg"
"A Piece of String" and "The Diamond Necklace"

Fawatt Publications, Inc. Greenwich, Conn. 06830

Counterparts - Dean Flowers (ed.) (Teaching aid available)
The Best Short Stories of the Modern age - Douglas Angus (ed.)

FILMSTRIPS:

-Education Unlimited Corporation
Media Unlimited Division
13001 Puritan Avenue
Detroit, Mich. 48227
I - J - S
"Forms of Literary Expression - The Short Story"

FILMS:

"Dr. Heidigger's Experiment", "The Lottery"
"The Lady or the Tiger", "Bartleby the Scrivener", "My Old Man"